

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims are listed below for the benefit of the Examiner. No amendments have been made. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (original) A method of processing resource acquisition requests, comprising:  
scheduling execution of the resource acquisition requests in accordance with user configurable metering.
2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sorting the resource acquisition requests into at least two separate queues for different request types.
3. (original) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising configuring metering of the resource acquisition requests in response to input from an administrator of the system.
4. (original) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said configuring includes specifying a first number of the resource acquisition requests from a first queue to be performed for a second number of the resource acquisition requests from a second queue, as long as the resource acquisition requests are queued in both the first and second queues.
5. (original) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said configuring includes specifying a corresponding number of the resource acquisition requests to be executed for each of the at least two separate queues when more than two of the separate queues are provided.
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising establishing a maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests in response to the input from the administrator.
7. (original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests is at least as large as a sum of the first and second numbers.

8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the first and second numbers are each larger than one.

9. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein a default metering is used when no input is received from the administrator.

10. (original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the first queue is for read requests, the second queue is for write requests and the default metering is two read requests for two write requests executed by four threads.

11. (original) At least one computer readable medium storing at least one program embodying a method of processing requests to access computing resources, said method comprising:

scheduling execution of the resource acquisition requests in accordance with user configurable metering.

12. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 11, further comprising sorting the resource acquisition requests into at least two separate queues for different request types.

13. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 12, further comprising configuring metering of the resource acquisition requests in response to input from an administrator of the system.

14. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein said configuring includes specifying a first number of the resource acquisition requests from a first queue to be performed for a second number of the resource acquisition requests from a second queue, as long as the resource acquisition requests are queued in both the first and second queues.

15. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein said configuring includes specifying a corresponding number of the resource acquisition requests to be executed for each of the at least two separate queues when more than two of the separate queues are provided.

16. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, further comprising establishing a maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests in response to the input from the administrator.

17. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests is at least as large as a sum of the first and second numbers.

18. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 17, wherein the first and second numbers are each larger than one.

19. (original) At least one computer readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein a default metering is used when no input is received from the administrator.

20. (original) A computer system that processes resource acquisition requests, comprising:

at least one processor programmed to schedule execution of the resource acquisition requests in accordance with user configurable metering.

21. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 20, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to sort the resource acquisition requests into at least two separate queues for different request types.

22. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 21, further comprising an input unit to receive input from an administrator of the system, and wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to configure metering of the resource acquisition requests in response to the input from the administrator of the system.

23. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to specify a first number of the resource acquisition requests from a first queue to be performed for a second number of the resource acquisition requests from a second queue, as long as the resource acquisition requests are queued in both the first and second queues.

24. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 23, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to specify a corresponding number of the resource acquisition requests to be executed for each of the at least two separate queues when more than two of the separate queues are provided.

25. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 23, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to establish a maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests in response to the input from the administrator.

26. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 25, wherein the maximum number of threads for executing resource acquisition requests is at least as large as a sum of the first and second numbers.

27. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 26, wherein the first and second numbers are each larger than one.

28. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed to use a default metering when no input is received from the administrator.